

## **AP Government**

### **Chapter 1 Reading Guide: American Government and Politics**

Please answer these questions on binder paper. No need to rewrite the questions, just number your answers.

1. What is politics?
2. What is government?
3. According to your book what lesson does Somali provide regarding the importance of a national government?
4. According to your book why is government necessary?
5. How is liberty defined in your text?
6. What is the difference between authority and legitimacy?
7. Your book makes a distinction between totalitarianism and authoritarianism. What is the distinction between these two forms of government?
8. How is an aristocracy different from a democracy?
9. What did Athenian direct democracy depend upon?
10. What are initiatives and referendums? How are they modern versions of direct democracy?
11. Why did Madison and the founders of our nation choose a representative democracy and not direct democracy?
12. What is a republic?
13. What is the concept of popular sovereignty?
14. Why isn't a democratic republic or representative democracy the same as a direct democracy?
15. Which groups were denied universal suffrage as the founding of our republic?
16. What does limited government mean?
17. What is the majoritarianism view of democracy?
18. Do you think we operate more as a majoritarianism democracy or do you subscribe to the elite theory? Why or why not?
19. What is pluralism?
20. How is someone politically socialized?

21. What are the roots of the US's dominant culture?
22. How do liberty and order come into conflict? Give an example.
23. What are several examples of the tension between equality and liberty?
24. Why are property rights under capitalism sometimes at odds with equality?
25. What is an ideology?
26. What are two differences between conservative and liberal ideologies?
27. Where does socialism fall in the traditional political spectrum?
28. What is the origin of the word liberalism? How is "classical liberalism" different than the definition of liberalism used today?
29. In a four-cornered ideological grid, where would libertarians fall? Why?
30. Which do you think is more descriptive the traditional political spectrum or four cornered grid?
31. How does your book define communism?
32. How does your book define fascism?
33. Do you agree or disagree that the current radical and fundamentalist Islamic ideology is totalitarian? Why or why not?
34. What demographic shifts have occurred in the US in relationship to age and birthrate?
35. How does our shift in demographics effect health care and medical costs?
36. How has the ethnic composition of the US changed over the last century?
37. Which are the fastest growing ethnic groups in America?
38. In what way does the term "Hispanic" cover a diverse group of Americans?
39. How has the role of women in the economy changed over the last several decades?
40. How have educational levels changed in the last 50 years?